

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 109460 TOSEC 040291
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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 109460 TOSEC 040291

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CHEROKEE FOR THE SECRETARY ONLY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, IS, US, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: ARMS TO ISRAEL

REF: SECTO 4076

1.FOLLOWING IS REPLY RECEIVED FROM DR. BRZEZINSKI:

BEGIN QUOTE: REF YOUR SECTO 4076. I CAN TRACE NO
REFERENCE TO WHITE HOUSE AIDE. STORY BY AP STATE
DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENT IS BEING DENIED INCLUDING
ALLEGED DETAILS ABOUT PHONE CALL TO PRESIDENT.
POWELL EXPLAINING STATE AND WHITE HOUSE CONCUR. POWELL
SAYING PRESIDENT CHARACTERIZED STATEMENT HE HAD BEEN
MISLEAD AS "RIDICULOUS AND UNTRUE." FULL TEXT OF AP
STORY FOLLOWS. END QUOTE.

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT FREED AP ITEM DATE LINE WASHINGTON
MAY 13:

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QUOTE: U.S. MIDDLE EAST - KENNETH J. FREED
WASHINGTON (AP) -- ISRAEL AND ITS CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORTERS
HAVE WON A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY OVER THE STATE DEPARTMENT
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO GRANT THE JEWISH
STATE SPECIAL TREATMENT ON WEAPONS AID.

CARTER SIGNED THE ISRAELI ACCOMPLISHMENT WHEN HE DISCLOSED AT A THURSDAY NEWS CONFERENCE THAT THE JERUSALEM GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY IN OBTAINING NEW U.S. WEAPONS AND MILITARY TECHNOLOGY AND THE RIGHT TO CO-PRODUCE SOME AMERICAN-DESIGNED ARMAMENTS.

CARTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT CAME JUST TWO HOURS AFTER HE AND A GROUP OF SENATORS WHO SUPPORT ISRAEL WORKED OUT AN AGREEMENT TO GRANT ISRAEL SPECIAL TREATMENT. THE SENATORS AGREED IN EXCHANGE TO SHELVE AN AMENDMENT AIMED AT GIVING LAWMAKERS THE POWER TO CIRCUMVENT CARTER'S ARMS POLICY.

THURSDAY'S EVENTS CAPPED AN ALL-OUT LOBBYING BATTLE BETWEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND ITS BACKERS. THE DEPARTMENT WANTED TO EXCLUDE ISRAEL FROM A CATEGORY OF PREFERRED NATIONS THAT RECEIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION IN ARMS MATTERS.

LED BY UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE LUCY WILSON BENSON, DEPARTMENT LOBBYISTS ARGUED THAT INCLUDING ISRAEL IN THAT CATEGORY WOULD UPSET THE ARABS AT A SENSITIVE POINT OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS.

THEY ALSO ARGUED THAT THE UNITED STATES NEEDED TO ADOPT AN "EVEN-HANDED" POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST ANTAGONISTS.

THE ISRAELIS FOUGHT BACK, SEEING THESE POSITIONS AS AN
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ATTEMPT BY PRO-ARABISTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION TO WEAKEN THE JERUSALEM GOVERNMENT SO IT COULD NOT OPPOSE AN AMERICAN-IMPOSED MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

A CONCERTED EFFORT BY ISRAELI AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ, THE ISRAELI LOBBY AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORTERS PRODUCED TWO AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES TO LIVE UP TO COMMITMENTS BY THE GERALD R. FORD ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE ISRAEL NEW WEAPONS, TECHNOLOGY AND RIGHTS TO CO-PRODUCE SOME ARMAMENTS FROM U.S. PLANS.

ALTHOUGH FIRST INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH THE ISRAELI EXCLUSION, SOURCES SAID IT WAS NOT UNTIL CARTER GOT AN EMERGENCY PHONE CALL FROM AN AIDE WHILE HE WAS FLYING HOME FROM LONDON ON TUESDAY THAT HE REALIZED A CONFRONTATION HAD DEVELOPED.

HE DECIDED THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD MISLED HIM AND HE ARRANGED FOR THE THURSDAY MEETING WHERE HE AGREED TO

ACCEPT THE ISRAELI POSITION. END QUOTE.
CHRISTOPHER

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